



Fact File

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U.S. Army Europe & Seventh Army Fact File

HISTORY – 28th Infantry Regiment



Three Army Regiments have held the designation “28th Infantry”. The first was constituted on January 29, 1813 and served during the war with England. In 1815, it consolidated with other regiments to form the 3rd Infantry. In 1866, the second 28th Infantry Regiment was formed, but merged with the 19th Infantry in 1869. The present 28th Infantry Regiment was constituted by Act of Congress in February 1901 and organized in March at Vancouver Barracks, Wash.

The Regiment first saw combat service from December 1901 to January 1904 during the Philippine Insurrection. On the island of Mindanao, the Regiment subdued the Moro guerrillas at Pantar, seized the walled city of Jolo, and led the assault of Suliman Mountain.

During the years 1906-1908, the Regiment performed guard and police duty as part of the American forces of Cuban Occupation.

In 1913, the 28th Infantry was ordered to Texas to guard the Mexican border against raids by Pancho Villa. In April 1914, the Regiment was part of the expedition which occupied the captured Mexican city of Vera Cruz.

Following the entry of the United States into World War I, the Regiment was assigned to the 1st Expeditionary Division, later the 1st Infantry Division. On June 29, the men of Company K became the first American combat unit to set foot on European soil at St. Nazaire, France. The Regiment conducted the first offensive operation by U.S. troops in WW-I at Cantigny, where, in a viciously fought three-day battle, the 28th Infantry captured the town of Cantigny and withstood five German counterattacks. Here the ‘*Lions of Cantigny*’ were born and the prestige of the American fighting man upheld before the world. The Regiment also fought in the battles of Soissons, the Argonne and Sedan. The Regiment suffered more than 5,000 casualties in this war.

The 28th Infantry distinguished itself again in combat during World War II. After landing on Utah Beach on July 4, 1944, the Regiment advanced south through Avranches and Rennes and turned west into Brittany. The Black Lions participated in the savage battle for Brest and then fought on the Crozon Peninsula. The Regiment continued across northwest Europe fighting near Aachen and through the Huertgen Forest. The Regiment successfully conducted an assault crossing of the flood-swollen Roer River and seized the town of Stockheim. During its eleven months of combat, the Regiment played a major part in four allied campaigns, receiving three Presidential Unit Citations. The 28th Infantry suffered over 4,300 total casualties and captured more than 115,000 prisoners of war. The Regiment deactivated upon completion of the war.

The 28th Infantry was reactivated in Aug. 1950 and served as a training regiment at Fort Jackson, S.C. The Black Lions later moved to Fort Carson, Colo. in 1954 and to Germany in 1956.

In 1965, the regiment deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division. The 2nd Battalion arrived on Oct. 6, 1965 and was based at Lai Khe. Later that year, the Battalion fought in the battle of Trung Loi as part of OPERATION BUSHMASTER. In March 1966, 2nd Battalion received the Valorous Unit Award for the Battle of Lo Ke as part of OPERATION COCOA BEACH. The Black Lions received orders to redeploy to the United States in early 1970. In five years of combat the regiment suffered almost 4,000 casualties. On April 15, 1970 the 2nd Battalion was inactivated at Fort Riley, Kan.

The 2nd Battalion was activated and assigned to the 8th Infantry Division in Germany on Feb. 21, 1973. The Black Lions served in Germany until Jan. 1987, when the Regiment was assigned to the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, S.C. On Nov. 30, 2005, the 2nd Battalion was deactivated at Fort Jackson.

On March 17, 2008, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment was activated in Schweinfurt, Germany and assigned to 172nd Infantry Brigade.



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Soldiers of the 28th Infantry Regiment have come to be known as “Black Lions”, after their distinctive unit insignia. In World War I, the 28th was the attacking regiment at Cantigny, the first important American engagement of the war. Cantigny is in the ancient province of Picardy, whose arms carried three black rampant lions. The regiment was cited twice in Army Orders by the French for distinguished services rendered at Cantigny and Soissons and was awarded the fourragère, which is incorporated as a part of the crest. When the regiment was organized in 1901, the color of Infantry facings was white, which has been taken for the color of the shield. The regiment went to the Philippines, seeing active service against the Moros in Mindanao. The kris and kampilan, the Moro weapons, are positioned at the top of the unit crest to commemorate the Regiment’s service during the Philippine Insurrection. The Regimental motto is “Vincit Amor Patriae” “Love of Country Conquers”.

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